What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of storing changes to an attribute of a file comprising steps of:

2   altering an attribute of a file, prior to said altering, the attribute being included in

3   a prior set of attributes of the file stored in a memory device;

4   storing in the memory device a new set of attributes, said new set of attributes

5   including the altered attribute;

6   storing in the memory device a single version of file contents; and

7   sharing the file contents by the prior set of attributes and the new set of attributes.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said altering is performed in

2   connection with the development of a website, extranet site or intranet site and wherein

3   the file contents includes information which is to be accessible via the website, extranet

4   site or intranet site.

1   3.   The method according to claim 2, wherein said altering is performed in a work

2   area and further comprising submitting the altered attribute for storage in the memory

3   device, the memory device being part of a development server.

1   4.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising forming a pointer in

2   response to said altering the attribute wherein the pointer associates the new set of

3   attributes with the file contents.

1   5.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

2   altering the file contents; and

3   discontinuing said sharing of the file contents in response to said altering of the

4   file contents.

1   6.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

2   storing a new file contents, the new file contents including the file contents as

3   altered by said altering the file contents.

1   7.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising retaining in the memory

2   device the file contents, prior to being altered by said altering the file contents, in

3   association with one of the prior set of attributes or the new set of attributes.

1   8.   The method according to claim 5, wherein said storing stores the new file contents

2   in association with the new set of attributes when the file contents are accessed via the

3   new set of attributes for performing said altering and further comprising updating the new

4   set of attributes so as to reflect the changed file contents.

1   9.   The method according to claim 5, wherein said storing stores the new file contents

2   in association with the prior set of attributes when the file contents are accessed via the

3   prior set of attributes for performing said altering and further comprising updating the

4   prior set of attributes so as to reflect the changed file contents.

1   10.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

2   altering an attribute of the new set of attributes thereby forming a third set of

3   attributes;

4   sharing said file contents by the prior set of attributes, the new set of attributes

5   and the third set of attributes.

1   11.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising forming a pointer in

2   response to said altering an attribute wherein the pointer associates the new set of

3   attributes and the third set of attributes with the file contents.

1   12.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the new set of attributes and the third

2   set of attributes each includes an identification of the pointer.

1   13.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

2   forming a first pointer in response to said altering an attribute of the file, wherein

3   the first pointer associates the new set of attributes with the file contents; and

4   forming a second pointer in response said altering the attribute of the new set of attributes

5   wherein the second pointer associates the third set of attributes with the file contents.

1   14.   The method according to claim 13, wherein the new set of attributes includes an

2   identification of the first pointer and wherein the third set of attributes includes an

3   identification of the second pointer.

1   15.   An apparatus for storing changes to an attribute of a file, the apparatus having

2   physical memory comprising:

3   a work area including a file undergoing development, the file having a prior set of

4   attributes and file contents; and

5   a staging area for receiving an alteration made in the work area to an attribute of

6   the prior set of attributes wherein in response to receiving the changed attribute, a new set

7   of attributes is stored in the memory, the new set of attributes including the altered

8   attribute and the file contents being shared by the prior set of attributes and the new set of

9   attributes.

1   16.   The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising an edition area for

2   storing contents of a website, extranet site or intranet site and wherein the file contents

3   includes information which is to be accessible via the website, extranet site or intranet

4   site.

1   17.   The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said memory further comprises a

2   persistent backing store memory for storing the prior set of attributes, the new set of

3   attributes and the shared file contents.

1   18.   The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a pointer stored in the

2   memory for associating the new set of attributes with the file contents.

1   19.   The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when an alteration is made to the
2   file contents in the work area, the file contents are no longer shared by the prior set of
3   attributes and the new set of attributes.

1   20.   The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a new file contents, as altered by
2   said alteration to the file contents, is stored in the memory.

1   21.   The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the memory device stores the file
2   contents, prior to being altered by said alteration to the file contents, in association with
3   one of the prior set of attributes or the new set of attributes, said prior set of attributes or
4   new set of attributes updated so as to reflect the changed file contents.